GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:91
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
INSTALLATION OF CAT III B SYSTEM AT AIRPORTS
Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The details of various airlines flights delayed/cancelled due to fog in various parts of the country during this winter season;

(b) The details of loss of revenue suffered by Indian Airlines/Air India;

(c) Whether despite the newly installed Cat-III-B system at Delhi Airport, a large number of flights was delayed/cancelled;

(d) If so, whether the Government has examined the reasons for such delay/cancellation;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) The steps taken to avoid such delay/ cancellation in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.91 tabled for reply on 23.2.2006 regarding Installation of Cat-III-B System at Airports.

(a) Number of flights delayed/diverted/cancelled due to fog during this winter season, airlines-wise is as under: Indian Airlines-351, Air India-72, Jet Air-227, Sahara Airlines-64, Air Deccan-805, Kingfisher Airlines-43, Spicejet-72 & Go Air-06.

(b) The estimated loss of revenue suffered by Indian Airlines due to flight delay/cancellation etc. is Rs.1.83 crores. The loss of revenue suffered by Air India is being collected.

(c) No, Sir. Only flights of those airlines whose pilots are not trained on Cat-IIIB operations and aircrafts which are not equipped with Cat-IIIB Avionics on board, were delayed/cancelled due to fog.

(d) and (e) The main reason for the delay/cancellation of flights due to fog may be attributed to lack of training to pilots of various airlines particularly those of private airlines and also the non-installation of Cat-IIIB Avionics on board some of the aircraft.

(f) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prescribed qualification/ experience and training for pilots operating domestic airlines to undergo training for Cat-II/III A and B operations. Only DGCA approved pilots are authorised to operate under Cat-III conditions during fog. Pilots operating foreign airlines who are trained for Cat-IIIB operations by their State, can also operate flights under Cat-III B conditions during fog. Only DGCA approved pilots are authorised to use ILS during fog. Various airlines are coordinated from time to time and impressed upon for expeditious training of their pilots for use of Cat-II/III A & B operations. Besides, each year, Ministry of Civil Aviation reviews our Fog Preparedness with the representatives of DGCA, AAI, Meteorological Department, various airlines and other concerned agencies such as Customs, Immigration etc.